



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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FOR INFORMATION CALL
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Additional Federal Funds Secured for Major Transportation Improvements in San Mateo County

Washington, DC – U.S. Senate passage of the Consolidated Omnibus Appropriations Bill has cleared the way for funding for four major transportation projects and one environmental project on the Peninsula.

“We’re rolling ahead toward significant solutions to the transportation issues faced by the Peninsula and San Francisco, now that the way has been cleared for additional federal funds to be invested in the region’s development,” Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA) said today.

Like its House counterpart, which was passed on December 8, 2003, the Senate bill provides an additional \$100 million for the Bay Area’s top transportation priority, the BART extension to the Airport. Lantos has been widely recognized for helping secure this significant funding to help cover the costs of the \$1.5 billion project, which opened for passenger use last summer.

These are some of the other items that Lantos championed for the House bill, and that were also included in the Senate version passed on Thursday afternoon:

- SamTrans will receive \$900,000 more for its innovative Zero Emissions Bus Program. In partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), SamTrans developed a prototype bus program to meet new clean air standards. The new funds will support six reduced-emissions, hydrogen fuel-cell buses and the facilities to accommodate this new system.
- Lantos helped to obtain \$500,000 for the Caltrain Train Tracking Information System to provide real-time, reliable advance notification of train arrival times to passengers waiting at Caltrain stations using a global positioning satellite (GPS) train tracking system.
- And a much-needed transportation alternative, the proposed ferry line from South San Francisco’s Oyster Point to downtown San Francisco, now is closer to reality after Lantos successfully sought \$1 million for a new ferry boat to serve this route. If approved, service for this route could start in 2008; the San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority estimates the new line could provide more than 2,000 passenger trips daily. Funding for a ferry terminal Oyster Point is under consideration this year.
- In addition to these transportation projects, with the passage of the Senate version of the House Omnibus Appropriations bill, Congressman Lantos obtained \$475,000 for the Environmental Protection Agency to improve Brisbane’s Valley Drive Pump Station. These funds are intended to alleviate an imminent risk of raw sewage overflowing into the Bay.

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